

Chapter News and New Members

Ben Morrison Chapter

Harold Belcher, Secretary

The chapter held its business meeting and plant exchange and auction May 24, 2017 at Christopher's Restaurant in Crofton, MD, with 10 members attending. President Budne informed us that the chapter had received its non-profit, tax exempt status under Section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and gave an abbreviated treasurer's report. The chapter's check in the amount of \$400 had been disbursed to the Benjamin Yoe Morrison Memorial Garden at the Pineville Presbyterian Church in Pass Christian, MS, and they received a thank you letter from Sylvia McLaurin.

We also received a check in the amount of \$2,000 from the Estate of Ms. Jean White. Bob McWhorter read the letter we received from Ms. White's niece concerning the bequest. The estate sold the property to folks who will restore the property and gardens, which is a fitting tribute to Frank and Jean White.

Summer events included a cutting picnic on July 1st at Wake Robin, the home and garden of Joe Miller. Joe allowed members to take some cuttings. Bee Hobbs mentioned that she had talked to Wanda Hanners. Wanda is still living on the Hanners' property in Huntingtown, MD, and offered her plants for cuttings as well. For our collectors, there were some Back Acres plants as well. Bob McWhorter has CDs with pictures of the azaleas that were formerly sold by the Hanners at Azalea Trace.

New member: Fred Newlan, Temple Hills, MD.

Cutting Picnic Tip: Take them early the morning of the picnic, label them, and place them in a cooler for transportation to a cutting picnic.

Alabamense Chapter

New member: Amanda Wilkins, Mobile Botanical Gardens, Mobile, AL.

Central Carolinas Chapter

New member: Andrea Sprott, Charlotte, NC.

Louisiana Chapter

Allen Owings, President

The chapter has been quiet after a very successful national azalea convention in late March. We appreciate everyone who attended or helped. Buddy Lee and Allen have been working with Arkansas members of the ASA to plan the national meeting for April 2018 in Little Rock, AR. It will be a great time and we hope you will mark your calendars for our first ever trip to Arkansas.

Plans for this fall include a BBQ social at LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station and we are also working to finalize the application for Hammond, LA, to become an ASA Azalea City.

New member: Bob Dillemath, Baton Rouge, LA; Jackie and Walter Walker, Little Rock, AR.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary

After the March Mini-Conference and April lecture our club participated in the Green Spring Gardens annual plant sale. While the date in May was after the peak blooming period, Carolyn and Paul Beck provided a good selection of late-blooming plants and deciduous varieties so that the results were our best ever. Additional members providing muscle and expertise were Rick and Susan Bauer, Dick Cecka, Barb and John Kirkwood, Dan Krabill, Lars Larson, Lee McElvain, and Barry Sperling.

In July, we held our popular July cutting exchange with demonstrations by Carolyn Beck and Barry Sperling. The annual fall sale and auction will be held on September 23. The fall meeting with a speaker is planned for October 15 and the holiday social will be at the home of the Larsons on December 3rd. Meeting activities are held at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in West Springfield, VA. Details of our calendar are available on the club website: www.nv-asa.org

New member: Dr. Celeste Szewczyk, Arlington, VA; William Hitt, Charlottesville, VA.

▼ Shown at the Green Spring Gardens sale: (l. to r.) Lars Larson, Paul Beck, Susan Bauer, Rick Bauer



Photo Carolyn Beck

Texas Chapter News

Sherrie Randall, Secretary

In preparation for our annual summer cutting/sticking party held at the Randall's home, chapter members traveled to member Robert Thau's garden in Jasper, Texas, to collect cuttings from his vast evergreen hybrid collections. Added to those were cuttings from the Gayla Mize Garden on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. This has become a very popular activity for our chapter members.

Our fall meeting September 15 will begin at the IDEA garden in Tyler, Texas. This garden is maintained by the

Smith County Master Gardeners with the goal of inspiring visitors to “Innovate, Demonstrate, Educate & Apply” good gardening practices. Following the tour, members will then travel to Blue Moon Gardens in Chandler, Texas, for lunch, a business meeting, and of course, a tour in this garden which specializes in perennials, herbs, natives, hardy roses, and cottage garden flowers.

New members: Teressa Bailey, Petty Chapman, David and Ginger Godefroy, and John and Cristy Talbott, Jasper, TX; Jennifer Miranda, Brookeland, TX.

New At-Large Members

New members: Janet Carson, Little Rock, AR; Dr. Sukumar Desai, Weston, MA; Jerry Rice, Callahan, FL; Richard Royce, Kennett Square, PA.

Yes, You Can Write for *The Azalean*

The *Azalean* needs more good articles about azaleas, their care, and their use in the landscape. Example topics include:

- Seasonal care of azaleas, planting and pruning tips, and pest and disease prevention.
- Articles about new public gardens or special azalea collections being created in your areas.
- Descriptions and photographs of ASA member gardens.
- Current research in azaleas being conducted at local universities, extension service gardens, or junior colleges.
- Information about azalea festivals and sales.
- Historic garden restoration stories.
- Articles about noteworthy azalea hybrid groups or new species or cultivar introductions.

Format: Send articles as Microsoft Word document attachments to theazalean@gmail.com.

Illustrations: Color or black-and-white print or digital photographs, or drawings can be used for illustrations. Provide captions and photographer or artist name.

Deadlines: Send finished copy and illustrations by the following dates to ensure careful review and production:

Winter 2017 Issue—October 30
Spring 2018 Issue—December 1
Summer 2018 Issue—February 1
Fall 2018 Issue—July 1

Call for Gardens' Deciduous Azalea Collections Data

Patrick Thompson of the Davis Arboretum at Auburn University is doing a survey of public gardens with deciduous azalea collections. Ideal candidates for participation have full time staff dedicated to the long-term maintenance of living collections, or seed banks with sufficient record-keeping to provide information on the source of wild collected and nursery grown plant material.

The goal is to compare lists and source information to perform a gap analysis to determine which types of deciduous azaleas, and even which portions of a native species' range are represented well, and which are rare in US collections. Detailed provenance information is crucial for conservation of wild genetic material, as many of our native azalea populations are lost to development.

So far, the following gardens have provided records for this study:

- Atlanta Botanical Garden
- Auburn's Davis Arboretum
- Bartlett Arboretum
- Connecticut College Arboretum
- Huntsville Botanical Gardens
- Jenkins Arboretum
- Mt. Cuba
- North Carolina Arboretum
- Stephen F. Austin State University Gardens
- US National Arboretum
- US NPGS GRIN Global.

Results of the survey will be published in a future issue of *The Azalean*. If you know of gardens which would like to participate, check to see if they can provide accession numbers, and source information for the plants in their collection. If so, have the garden's plant recorder or curator contact Patrick to get the format in which records must be submitted to be included.

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